

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-16. Canceled.

17. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for conveying fruit and vegetable products, ~~for example grapes,~~ comprising a hopper device suitable for receiving said products and screw-feeder arrangement having a variable pitch and suitable for conveying said products towards an outlet zone, wherein said screw-feeder arrangement has a variable pitch increases in a direction moving towards said outlet zone.

18. Canceled.

19. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 17, wherein can be identified in said screw-feeder arrangement, portions, each one of which corresponds to a given value of said pitch.

20. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said portions comprise a first portion, in which said pitch is about 200 mm.

21. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said portions comprise a second portion, in which said pitch is comprised between 200 mm and 250 mm.

22. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said portions comprise a third portion, in which said pitch is about 300 mm.

23. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said portions comprise a fourth portion, in which said pitch is about 400 mm.

24. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said screw-feeder arrangement is arranged below said hopper device.

25. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said hopper device comprises a hinged side element.

26. (Currently Amended) Method for conveying fruit and vegetable products, ~~for example grapes,~~ comprising using a variable pitch screw-feeder arrangement, wherein said screw-feeder arrangement has a variable pitch increasing along a conveying direction of said products.

27. Canceled.

28. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 26, wherein can be identified in said screw-feeder arrangement, portions, each one of which corresponds to a given value of said pitch.

29. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 28, wherein said screw-feeder arrangement has portions comprising a first portion, in which said pitch is about 200 mm.

30. (Previously Presented) (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 28, wherein said screw-feeder arrangement has portions comprising a second portion, in which said pitch is comprised between 200 mm and 250 mm.

31. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 28, wherein said screw-feeder arrangement has portions comprising a third portion, in which said pitch is about 300 mm.

32. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 28, wherein said screw-feeder arrangement has portions comprising a fourth portion, in which said pitch is about 400 mm.